

SAMPLE ITINERARY: ART INCONTRO UMBRIA

This sample itinerary illustrates the range of activities included in a typical week of the ART INCONTRO UMBRIA program. To receive the current and complete itinerary, please email lucia@artincontro.com.au and nominate ART INCONTRO UMBRIA.

Monday 4 June Rome -Città Di Castello

ARRIVAL: TRANSFER FROM ROME TO CITTA DI CASTELLO

You will be greeted by Lucia Parrella at Rome's Fiumicino Airport at 9.00am and driven by private bus to Città Di Castello. The journey will take approximately three hours including a short break on route. Otherwise, you should meet the group at our accommodation at the Residenza Antica Canonica in Città Di Castello at around 1.00pm for the start of the program. Further information about alternative means of transport to Città Di Castello will be provided upon request, prior to departure.

AFTERNOON: WELCOME LUNCH AND ORIENTATION TO CITTA DI CASTELLO

Città di Castello has a beautifully preserved Renaissance centre, a legacy of the Vitelli family who were generous patrons of the arts during the 15th and 16th centuries. An introduction to our host town begins with lunch at Trattoria Lea where the chef's specialities include homemade pasta served with truffle sauces and other Umbrian regional dishes. After lunch, we'll take a leisurely stroll around Città di Castello, which will include an orientation to the different services and a trip to buy groceries and other provisions. The rest of the day is free time to relax and settle in.

Tuesday 5 June Città Di Castello

MORNING: PINACOTECA COMUNALE

We visit the town's municipal gallery, the Pinacoteca Comunale, housed in the Florentine palazzo Vitelli alla Cannoniera. The Pinacoteca holds an important collection of Renaissance art, including works by the young Raphael, Luca Signorelli and some rare examples of terracotta bas-reliefs from the Della Robbia ceramic workshop. Of equal interest are the building's architectural features, including a marvellously decorated "sgraffito" façade designed by Giorgio Vasari (the artist, architect and renowned chronicler of the "The Lives of the Artists").

AFTERNOON: CREATIVE SESSION 1 - EXPERIMENTAL DRAWING

This is the first of 13 creative sessions woven throughout the program, encouraging experimentation with ideas and art materials. The sessions are flexible to accommodate various levels of experience, different approaches and areas of interest. Alternatively, you are welcome to use these sessions for your own self-directed project in painting, photography, writing, reading or any other creative activity. The sessions will be approximately three hours.

Wednesday 6 June Città Di Castello

MORNING: TELA UMBRA WEAVING WORKSHOP

The Laboratorio Tela Umbra is famous throughout Italy for both the quality of its hand woven linen and the vision of its founders, Alice and Leopoldo Franchetti. Established in 1908 as a philanthropic project, today the workshop is self-managed as a cooperative by women dedicated to promoting the tradition of Umbrian weaving. Using ancient wooden looms, weaver Francesca Peli and her colleagues will demonstrate aspects of their craft and outline the historical and social importance of the workshop and its association with the educationist, Maria Montessori.

AFTERNOON: CREATIVE SESSION 2 - INNOVATIVE BOOK CONSTRUCTIONS

Lucia Parrella will demonstrate a number of simple and innovative book constructions. Each participant will produce a simple folded book and will also begin to make their journal. We will leave the journal unbound at this stage, so we can continue to use the loose-leaf pages in the subsequent art sessions. The pages can then be compiled and stitched together at the end of the three weeks.

Thursday 7 June Montone

MORNING: MONTONE HISTORIC CENTRE AND VISIT TO TOWN ARCHIVES

One of the most spectacularly sited villages in northern Umbria, Montone not only provides panoramic views of the upper Tiber Valley but also has a wonderful medieval centre, which we will explore during our visit. Our excursion provides a unique opportunity to examine the town's precious archives; a fascinating collection of handwritten parchment manuscripts and ancient printed texts. Archivist, Lucia Montagnini, provides an insider's commentary, allowing us to appreciate the ancient crafts of copper plate

writing, bookbinding and engraving. Lunch at Del Verziere taverna is recommended.

AFTERNOON: WROUGHT IRON WORKSHOP

Montone is also the venue for an important annual expo on wrought iron, which attracts forgers, artists and designers from all over central Italy. After lunch, we visit L'infornaccio dei Mastri Fabbri, a wrought iron workshop and gallery recessed into Montone's medieval defensive walls. Here, local forger, Luca Volonterio, produces whimsical furniture and other creations, as well as restoring traditional pieces. In his amazing Aladdin's cave, Luca will demonstrate the blacksmithing process, from drawing-board design to the finished object.

Friday 8 June Perugia

MORNING: ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF UMBRIA AND MEDIEVAL GARDEN

On our first trip to the regional capital, we'll explore Perugia's ancient past at the National Archaeological Museum of Umbria. Located within the 15th century monastery of San Domenico, the museum has an exceptionally rich and varied Etruscan section. This includes the longest surviving Etruscan text, the fascinating *cippus* slab from the 3rd century BC, and a fine range of ceramics, bronzes and gold jewellery. Nearby, in the ancient cloister of San Pietro, we can wander through the evocative Orto Medioevale. In this recreated Medieval Garden, the fascinating symbolism of monastic life is illustrated in the layout and selection of plants. A picnic in the garden is recommended for lunch.

AFTERNOON: CREATIVE SESSION 3 - DRAWING FIELD TRIP

After lunch, we will choose a subject or theme from either the Archaeological Museum or the Medieval Garden to develop a series of quick drawings, which can be used for reference and later development.

Saturday 9 June Città Di Castello

MORNING: COLLEZIONE BURRI PALAZZO ALBIZZINI

We take a leap from the Renaissance to the 20th century, visiting one of the galleries dedicated to Alberto Burri, an abstract artist of international stature. A native son of Città di Castello, Burri was a leading exponent of Arte Povera and one of the most influential European artists working in the second half of the last century. We visit the artist's collection at the Palazzo Albizzini, which houses Burri's paintings, sculpture and set design spanning four decades.

After our visit, we can wander through the town's Saturday markets, where clothing, shoes and household items will be on offer.

AFTERNOON: CREATIVE SESSION 4 – MONOPRINTING and MIXED MEDIA

In this session, we experiment with mono-printing and mixed media techniques. A mono-print, as the name implies, is a one-off impression made by applying printing ink or oil paints to a flat surface and transferring it to paper. Mono-prints allow us to work quickly and obtain a range of expressive textures and marks. Alternatively, you can continue working on your own creative project.

Sunday 10 June Spello

MORNING: INFIORATE DEL CORPUS DOMINI

Our visit to Spello coincides with the Infiorate del Corpus Domini (Corpus Christi Floral Decorations), one of Umbria's most beautiful religious festivals. The floral decorations, which line the cobbled streets, are poignant images representing liturgical and ornamental motifs. These creations are composed entirely of flower petals, herbs and grasses. The work begins the night before the procession by teams of artists and local community members. After the procession, we will visit the town's finest monument, Santa Maria Maggiore, built between the 12th and 13th centuries and still retaining a Romanesque bell-tower. The undisputed highlight of the interior is the Baglioni chapel magnificently frescoed by Pinturicchio and with a stunning floor of Deruta majolica tiles.

AFTERNOON: SCULPTURE, FURNITURE & DESIGN WORKSHOP AND GALLERY

Born in Foligno and trained at the Academy of Fine Arts in Perugia, Angelo Cucciarelli has received critical acclaim for his contemporary sculpture and inventive furniture, using wood and other natural materials. Together with his partner, Elisabetta, they have established Arte e Arte Applicata, a venue showcasing original home-ware and applied sculptural pieces, designed and executed by the artist himself. We meet Angelo in his gallery where he will talk to us about the creative influences and techniques behind his work.

Monday 11 June Città Di Castello

MORNING: TIPOGRAFIA GRIFANI-DONATI PRINT WORKSHOP

Città di Castello is renowned for its tradition of high quality printing; the first book was printed here in 1538. Gianni and Adriana Ottaviani are part of this proud tradition. A seventh generation printer, Gianni's family established the

Tipografia Grifani-Donati over 200 years ago. The workshop is still housed in its original building, a former medieval convent. During our visit, Gianni will demonstrate techniques on ancient presses for etching, woodblock, typesetting, lithography and bookbinding.

AFTERNOON: CREATIVE SESSION 5 – MONOPRINTING and MIXED MEDIA

We will continue experimenting with painted mono-prints. In this session we can work on enhancing our images by printing multiple layers. We can also paint or draw back into the image using a range of mediums or collage elements. Alternatively, you can continue working on your own creative project.

Tuesday 12 June Città Di Castello

FREE DAY AT YOUR LEISURE

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